(e) whether it is a fact that about Rs. 5,000 crores would be required to upgrade these airports to global standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the overall growth of civil aviation sector over the next three years will *inter-alia* depend on growth in GDP, trade and tourism.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has decided to modernise twenty five non-metro airports in phases with focus on airside and city side development and on enhancement of non-aeronautical revenues. The selection of airports will be made keeping in view their strategic importance and their commercial and traffic growth potential. Indian Financial Consultants (IFCs) and Global Technical Advisors (GTAs) shall be assisting AAI in conducting techno-economic feasibility study of identified airport to evolve an appropriate model based on viability of the project.

(e) The estimated expenditure have not been assessed yet since the development works and their cost will be finalized on the basis of Techno-Economic Feasibility Reports.

Rescheduling of flights during winter

1152. SHRI ANAND SHARMA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by the AAI and the DGCA to prevent disruption and diversion of flights from Delhi and North Indian Airports due to fog in winter;

(b) whether there is any proposal for diversion or rescheduling of the scheduled Air India and Indian Airlines flights during December-January; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Fog preparedness for the ensuing winter has

been reviewed with all the concerned agencies. A Coordination Committee shall monitor the start up clearances to manage and prioritize the movement of flights during fog. Meteorological Department shall be providing timely forecast of fog and the trend on the forecast regarding visibility so as to make it available on the internet site. Indian Airlines has set up a Central Coordination Cell to monitor for situation on all India basis and a system of Flight Information Dissemination through the Call Centre is operational at Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore. SMS service and broadcasts through TV/FM Channel are being introduced on all India basis for giving information regarding delays, rescheduling, cancellation. Air India has prepared a contingency plan for ensuring timely movement of flights during Winter Season. Private Airlines are also taking measures to manage operations during fog to mitigate any inconvenience to passengers.

(b) and (c) Air India has rescheduled its all long haul west bound flights to omit Delhi in both directions and operate directly to/from Mumbai between 23-11-2004 and 04-02-2005. Arrangements have been made to transport passengers from/to Delhi through shuttle services. Indian Airlines has drawn a contingency plan to handle dislocation/disruption of flights due to fog in winter season. These measures have been taken to minimise dislocation/disruption of flights and inconvenience to passengers during winter season.

Mandatory Inspection of Aircraft

1153. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Airlines plane bound for Mumbai recently hit a tractor and took off without the mandatory inspection;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the responsible officers who did not adhere to the mandatory inspection after this incident thus endagering the lives of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines A-300 aircraft VT-EHC